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With the addition of several new stores in Miltowne Centre, Tri-Co-Corp Lighting, The Tackle Shoppe, The Open Book, Keith Salisbury Photography, Clothes Cents, Cindy's Canine Grooming, to name a few, shopping downtown keeps getting better! The recently completed landscaping and the continued efforts of merchants to "freshen up" their store fronts combine to create a delightful, shopping atmosphere. Friendly, personal service is the aim of all Miltowne Centre merchants. Come on down. . . see how we've changed!

DELACOURT'S

By Jane Muller

Imagine a table draped with a fine lace cloth, bathed in candlelight and set with Royal Doulton china, Waterford crystal and beautifully sculptured silverware.

If this scene intrigues you or stirs your appetite for the finer things in life, then Delacourt's on the corner of Main and Martin Sts. is the place to visit.

A dream come true for owner Vera Delacourt, her store represents the first of its kind in Milton, offering quality china, stoneware, crystal, gifts, silver and brass items. As her mild accent reveals, Ireland is her homeland. As

a young woman she headed to London, England and trained as a china buyer but until Delacourt's opened last June she couldn't practise her trade. With help and encouragement from her husband John,

the former parks and recreation department registrar and bookkeeper is finding success running her elegant shop which she feels only women can truly appreciate. "It's something I always wanted to do. It started a long

time ago in Ireland," she said. The building's newly renchated shell provides the

perfect setting for Delacourt's! Large corner windows dressed with white cotton curtains swept back reveal tastefully displayed china. A personal touch has been added by Mrs. Delacourt who handcrafted several of the table cloths she uses to complement settings arranged on small tables in the shop.

She has displayed about 100 place settings on pine shelves which line two walls to allow for easy viewing. Some of these may have a small card by them indicating the name of a bride-to-be and the wedding date.

These cards are part of Mrs. Delacourt's bridal registry scheme where those planning to marry choose a china pattern, then enter it in the registry along with pieces required. For easy and practical gift buying a glance in the registry ensures an ideal wedding gift sure to please the

"There has been a very positive reaction to the bridal registry," Mrs. Delacourt reports.

She recommends those considering a pattern take their time in making a decision and allows them to take catalogues home. Fine china and practical stoneware, ever growing in popularity, represent a large financial invest-ment but as Mrs. Delacourt is quick to point out, such quality items should be considered an investment.

The china shop doesn't only cater to brides-to-be, but she says, a number of people married several years have showed an interest in her shop. If a customer requests an



At your service is Vera Delacourt, proprietor of Delacourt's Fine China on the corner of Main and Martin Sts.

item which is not in stock, Mrs. Delacourt does her best to satisfy patrons, going out of her way to find a particular

"I'm pretty optimistic about the future of downtown Milton. People are looking for personal service and they want to feel known."

A Milton resident for several years now, the 42-year-old is familiar with many of her customers and doesn't mind those who come in just to browse.

She is concerned about bringing business back to Milton. Before her shop opened it was necessary for fine china shoppers to venture to other centres, but now they have an opportunity to shop locally and therefore more conveniently.

"I'm sure people prefer to shop in Milton if they can. We need more speciality shops," suggests Mrs. Delacourt.

Some new additions to the inventory at Delacourt's include La Cuisine cookwear suitable for ovens and microwaves, made by Blue Mountain Pottery of Collingwood. "It is very popular because it is quite inexpensive," she

Especially for summer, serving trays with matching glasses and ice buckets are on hand for patio entertaining. It takes a touch to ensure the glasses are not glass as they appear to be, but durable plastic. Another popular summer item is the wedding gift. At Delacourt's there is something to suit every taste and pocket book.



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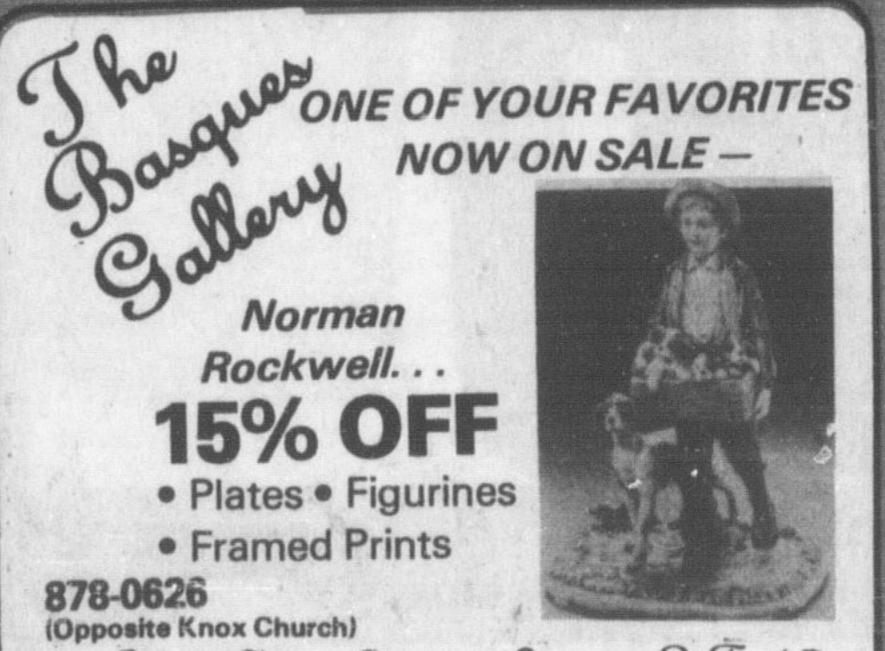
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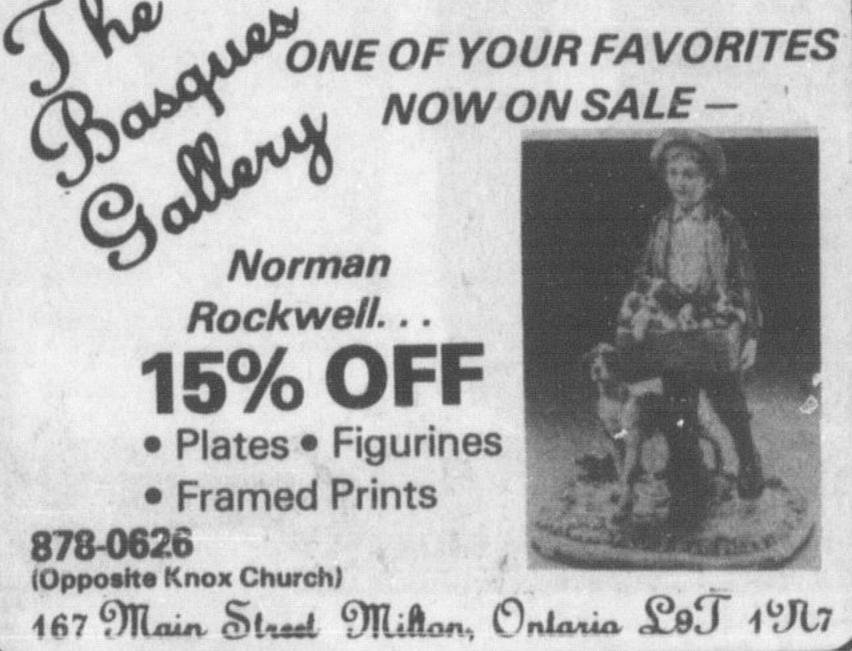
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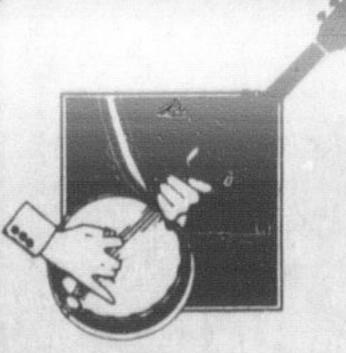


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